The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XXI. CHICAGO, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1868. NUMBER 203.

THE NEWS.

Gold closed in New York yesterday at 137½.

The assessed valuation of real estate in New York City for 1868 amounts to $371,407,939.

A destructive fire occurred at Rutland, Vermont, on Tuesday, with a loss of about $170,000.

Hon. Richard W. Thompson, of Terre Haute, Ind., declines to be a candidate for any office at the coming election.

In a prize fight between two young brothers at "Bloody Island," near St. Louis, on Tuesday, one of them was killed. Seven of the parties engaged in the fight have been arrested.

The Toledo (Ohio) *Ledger*, which is the old Union *Enquirer* with a new name, gives fair warning to the Louisiana Congressmen that they must not expect to implicitly open the forbearance of the Vallandigham faction.

A few less than ten thousand buildings were erected in the combined cities of New York and Brooklyn last year, while about nine thousand were erected in Chicago alone. Only 1,700 buildings were erected in Philadelphia during the same period.

Yesterday, while blasting limestone rock, close to the Pinhook, now the village of Pinhill, N. C., recently came upon a vein of rock in coin. It is equal to the best foreign, and is worth more to Pinhill than a gold mine.

The New York Legislature is in session, but the Albany correspondent of the New York *Times* pays them rather an equivocal compliment when he remarks that "the attendance in both branches was very fair, and the marked absence was very fair in Wall street."

The Vinton (O.) *Record* says: "Such an offer to get a large crop of wheat in the ground as was made in Jackson county for farmers during the fall of 1867. Every foot of tillable ground, every new clearing, in fact every available acre, is under cultivation.

Speaking of the arrest of George F. Train and his incarceration in an English jail, an evening contemporary thinks: "So much explosive material confined in a limited space must produce the most delightful results. Every workman, while blasting limestone rock, close to the Pinhill, now the village of Pinhill, N. C., recently came upon a vein of rock in coin. It is equal to the best foreign, and is worth more to Pinhill than a gold mine.

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THE DAILY TRIBUNE IS ISSUED EVERY MORNING, AS SUNDAYS EXCEPTED, AND IS DELIVERED IN THE CITY AND SUBURBS AT TWENTY CENTS PER WEEK.

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The Law of Greenbacks.

In the debate in the House, on Saturday last, Mr. Blaine, of Maine, called attention to an act of Congress passed on the 30th of June, 1864, which placed a prohibition upon any subsequent issue of legal tenders, making that prohibition a part of the letter and conditions of the last loan negotiated by the government. An examination of the statutes satisfies us that Mr. Blaine is right. The first statute authorizing an issue of United States notes was the act of February 25, 1862, which authorized the issue of $150,000,000; to legal tenders, $10,000,000 of which were to be used in redeeming a like amount of demand Treasury notes, issued in July, 1861.

On the 11th of July, 1862, Congress authorized an additional issue of $150,000,000, one-third of which was to be reserved to pay temporary loans.

On the 3d of March, 1863, a further issue of $150,000,000 United States notes, for the purpose of converting outstanding Treasury notes, was authorized, and also an additional issue of $150,000,000 (if necessary to pay the army and navy, and other creditors of the government).

This gradual increase of the amount of legal-tender notes was reluctantly consented to by Congress. Nothing but an inevitable necessity could have forced Congress into a measure which both Presenden and Pendleton characterized as fraught with terrible evils to the country—the evils of an inconvertible and depreciated paper currency. Both political parties saw the danger to both public and private credit resulting from an unlimited issue of legal tenders; and in order to guard against it, Congress pledged its faith to the national creditors—that is, to everybody who held either bonds or greenbacks—that there should be no increase of those notes, in those words:

Provided, That the total amount of bonds and Treasury notes issued under the several acts and sections of this act shall not exceed the sum of $400,000,000, and that the amount of such notes issued under the provisions of this act, *nor shall the total amount of notes of all descriptions issued under this act and all other acts authorized at the present session of Congress, exceed the sum of four hundred millions of dollars*; and, such additional sum, not exceeding $50,000,000, as may be necessary for temporarily replacing for the redemption of fractional currency destroyed.

This is the pledge made by Congress to all whom it might concern—that the amount of legal tenders then outstanding ($450,000,000) should not be increased by law. This was a part of the contract in the Loan bill of 1864, and would be held by any court in Christendom to be valid and irrepealable.

The logic which denies the obligation to pay the holders of the national bonds any more than is specified in the contract by which they were originally for them is as weak as it is dishonest. Whether the government, in 1862-3-4-5, sought loans to enable it to maintain its existence, the name of paper money at all was understood and proclaimed to be a temporary expedient. It was alleged that, as soon as the war was ended, a return to specie payments would take place. The promise of the government to pay had no possible value or significance save in the promised return to specie payments. The question, therefore, of the legality of the acts by which the credit-y loan the government in 1865, or '64, but how much did the government promise to pay him when the war was over? The answer is full from the lips of the government itself: it did not promise to pay him $2,500,000,000 in depreciated paper, because it had pledged the national faith that there should never be an issue of legal tenders beyond the amount of $450,000,000 then outstanding. *In fact*, a little remarkable that the most vehement opponent of the bill proposing the limitation of the issue of greenbacks, is now the champion and leader of the party which proposes to rob the whole people, both bondholder and paper holders, by watering the currency. The greenbacks now in circulation are in the hands of the whole people, rich and poor alike. By far the larger portion of them is in the hands of persons of small means, who exchange their goods and products and labor for them by day by day. Every increase in the amount of an irredeemable paper currency, reduces the value of the whole currency. It is the farmers and laborers of the Northwest that hold $160,000,000 of legal tenders, and the value of that money is reduced twenty-five percent by the issue of $40,000,000 more amount, do not the holders lose one-fourth of their money—one-fourth of the proceeds of their productions and of their labor? To issue inconvertible paper without limit will not pay the debt; it may confiscate the interest, but it will take from the producing classes an amount far in excess of the interest. It is a tax levied to the debt itself. The end of all would be a repudiation of the greenbacks, which would become more pointless and pestilent than the locusts of Egypt.

Who is Responsible?

The Chicago Times says that "Johnson's provisional scheme of reconstruction was so much without authority as that adopted by Congress." But all the existing State organizations in the South were founded upon Johnson's reconstruction proclamation which the *Times* declares to be without authority. We entirely agree with that paper that Johnson had no constitutional authority whatever to create a State government for the conquered States; and all he has done in that direction is entirely void. The question before the existing State governments in the South are born, and should be superseded by those now being regularly organized according to law. From the moment the mark in the same article it will be seen that the *Times* holds that the State governments existing at the date of the collapse of the rebellion were valid, and should have been recognized by Congress.

If a previous article we stated the effect of the provisional act of Congress, in full in the following language, which it may be well to reproduce now that the bill is placed before the country by the Senate Finance Committee:

"But the commercial business of the country is changed to transactions upon a gold basis, a result which necessarily depreciates the value of dollar in gold in addition to that now in use. It would cut off millions of the issue of paper, but would merely change the transactions from a paper to a gold and fluctuating basis in a real one. For instance, if Mr. Brown sells Mr. Jones a bill of currency, with gold at $160, it wasn't be worth $160 in coin. This extra charge is that the depreciation would be on the gold basis, and he would have to be paid in paper at its current value. Instead of appearing that the greenbacks would be quoted at 71, and instead of the decrease in value of the paper, prices would be the increase in value of the paper, prices would be quoted at their present value, and the purchasable value of the paper would be the gold value. Instead of having the price of wheat according or being, according to the real value of the paper, the value of wheat represented by so much paper would remain unchanged by such causes, and the purchasable value of the paper would be quoted at the gold value. Instead of having the price of wheat according or being, according to the real value of the paper, the value of wheat represented by so much paper would remain unchanged by such causes, and the purchasable value of the paper would be quoted at the gold value."

It is sufficient to say in reply to this, that the sealed Presidential proclamation of the Democratic party, by platform and resolution, declared the fact that the rebellion had left the people of the rebel States "*destitute of all civil governments*," and that the rebel organizations were illegal and void. He thereupon proceeded to or, pause new governments for each State, determining who should and who should not vote; prescribing test oaths; appointing Governors and clothing them with immense authority. On the 15th of July, 1865, he telegraphed to Governor Sharkey, of Mississippi, that the government of that State which he had created it will be provisional only "until the civil authorities can be restored, *with the approval of Congress*." And later, on the 13th of September, speaking through his Secretary of State, he declares to Mr. D. S. Morris, of Florida, that the new organization which took the place of the defunct rebel government, "must be distinctly understood as being *subject to the decision of any* law passed by yes, in his message at the opening of Congress, three months later, he suppressed *every* such statement and assured the country by announcing that he had completely recognized and reconstructed the rebel States—after setting aside their former constitutions, governments and offices, and had given them a "fresh new" outfit from top to bottom; and further, more coolly notified Congress that all that remained for it to do was to admit the Senators and Representatives from those States which his machine had created.

What Congress might have done in carrying out the Unitenden resolution had it been called together immediately after Johnson's arrest in the executive chair, cannot now be told. When Congress did meet, eight months afterwards, it was too late to recognize the old State governments, as Johnson had already destroyed them and set up others in their place. And the whole trouble, expense and excitement which have afflicted the country and drained the Treasury for the past two years, has been caused by the support the Copperhead party has given to Johnson to enable him to foist his bastard organizations upon Congress as lawful and proper State governments. Had they not supported his usurpation, all the extra expense would have been saved and all the turmoil and angry excitement avoided, and the Southern States would all be reorganized and restored to their places in the Union long ago.

The Dying Rebellion.

Let no man be misled by the loud outcry and desperate action of the rebels South and their allies North. The fires that have blazed up again so fiercely, and threaten such a terrific conflagration, are but dash steadily all their new-fledged hopes of regaining power, and secure the government completely and forever in the hands of true and loyal men, we should see no such frightful spasms of resistance, no such frantic coteries of pain and rage. The loyal steed has hit the very vitals of its desperate antagonist, and hence all "this hideous tenzine of hair, and rending of blood."

The rebellion, once crushed utterly in all its power, and all its hope, was revived, re-invigorated, and new life breathed in it by the treachery and guilt of Andrew Johnson. It did seem for a while as though the last shaft of evil portended the triumphant cause, and successful rebellion, regaining its former supremacy, had let its ancient hate of the Union, and its love of power, beat down the right, and race, trampling them more fiercely than ever before, from its foe, and compel the industry, the enterprise, and the wealth of the free States to reimburse its losses, heal its wounds, and labor always to aggrandize and enrich this superior Southern class. The prospect was most brilliant, and the hope most intoxicating! How could it be otherwise that one long and terrible struggle go up from all these fields when they saw all the forces of evil suddenly overcast, and in place of being cowed down to the high places of power, treated themselves to quickly cast down to be dejected and rolled in the dirt! What wonder that they curse with curses loud and deep the Congress that has thus overwhelmed them again with the ruin and despair! There was great hope that the rebellion revived might prove a success. Rebellion, with its guilty front unmasked and its hosts in arms, was not ingeniousness failure; but rebellion with its front masked, all hidden, and with fraud and treachery for its only tools and weapons, might be more of a success. How maddening and torturing beyond all else, it must be to find all this latent, and probably last effort, so much to law or custom, or known to the unchallenged masses of the country, parents prefer to exist, had an opportunity of expressing a consent to be governed in its support.

3. These constitutions all distinctly provide a way for their own amendment utterly inconsistent with the mode adopted by the Johnson proclamation, and hence all the amendments thereto, abolishing slavery and repudiating the rebel debt, are void and of no effect.

Then are the governments which the Democracy insist shall be upheld in opposition to those formed by order of the people, and ratified by them at the polls—by votes numerically greater than were ever known at any election in any of said States.

Contracts on a Gold Basis.

Senator Williams, of Oregon, reported the following bill from the Finance Committee of the Senate on Friday last:

Be it enacted, etc., That the United States, upon contracts hereafter made, may require payment in coin in payment of all taxes, internal duties, customs, and excises, and all sales of lands and other property belonging to the United States, except duties on imports, and may receive coin in payment of any debt due to the United States, and every kind whatsoever, except for interest on bonds and notes which may be hereafter sold or disposed of at their par value in coin; and may pay in coin or its equivalent all interest accruing on the public debt, and may contract with the holders of bonds, notes, or other obligations specially payable in coin for the redemption of the principal and interest aforesaid.

This bill reduces to form the proposition which we have on several occasions urged in favor of, and which able correspondents have advocated through our columns during the past year. We believe that sound financial thinkers, in all parts of the Union, look upon it as a wise and judicious step towards a resumption of specie payments. It escapes all the objections urged against forced contraction, and in a great measure solves the problem of redemption. It will require no law to make legal contracts, whether payable in coin or legal tenders, except in cases where by *special contract* payments are secured to be made in coin. The proposition, embraced in the bill of the Finance Committee, in substance, makes no change from existing facts: it merely makes that direct which is now indirect, and reduces to a system that which is eccentric and heterogeneous. Business will adapt and sold now is bought and sold in point of fact on the basis of valuation—with the depreciation in paper added. Greenbacks have not the recognized value beyond the point at which they can be converted into gold. The proposition is, that where men prefer to contract at the real value and not at the fictitious and fluctuating value, they shall be allowed to do so.

We have not proposed to make this return to a gold basis compulsory; we have never supposed that could be allowed, when they left so inclined, to offer and sell at gold valuations, instead of the false standard of a paper currency having no certain value. This can do no harm, but may aid, we think, will accomplish a gradual return to specie payments.

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LONDON.

A Nation Under Arms.

All England Besieged by an Invisible Enemy.

What Will Come Next.

International Postage and Postal Contracts.

Important Catholic Manifesto.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, England, Jan. 1.

A NATION UNDER ARMS.

The largest a cool-headed person looks at the proceedings of this nation and its government on the one hand, and the fruits actually proved against the Fenians on the other, the more is he puzzled and distraught. There is no exaggeration to say that the nation is arming almost as if the invasion of the Spanish Armada was imminent. Not in London alone, but in every other town, numerous bodies of people, squires, bankers, tradesmen, operatives and laborers, are enrolling themselves as special constables, and are being drilled three cold winter nights in order the better to contend with the invisible enemy. The colleges hitherto brought home to the Fenians, though atrocious crimes, are not sufficiently grave, in a national point of view, to explain the great military movements we see around. There is scarcely known to the authorities of which nothing is told to the public. It is no uncommon thing for the daily journals to publish a correspondence from the War Office or the Admiralty, announcing the change of the garrisons or volunteers, and particularly the sudden departure of ships-of-war from one service to the other, as if that in the ordinary course of things. Even the London Times, which is the only lawful government that can exist in London, and have signed the rebels to take up arms in its defence.

These Johnsonian-rebel governments have a few facts concerning them which should not be forgotten:

1. They, with the exception of Tennessee, have not framed new constitutions, but have reinstituted and adopted the constitutions existing in those States during the rebellion, with such amendments as the President told them he required should be made.

2. The question whether there should be a convention to re-enact their old constitutions, or to amend the same, was never submitted to the people to be voted upon.

3. The re-enacted constitution and the amendments thereto were never submitted to the people for approval, for the reason that it was understood and known that the people would reject them because they established slavery and repudiated the rebel debt.

4. No portion of the people, white or black, loyal or rebel, has ever, in any form known to law or custom, or known to the unchallenged masses of the country, parents prefer to exist, had an opportunity of expressing a consent to be governed in its support.

5. These constitutions all distinctly provide a way for their own amendment utterly inconsistent with the mode adopted by the Johnson proclamation, and hence all the amendments thereto, abolishing slavery and repudiating the rebel debt, are void and of no effect.

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Johnsonism.

☞ As a preventive against any ill effects from Copperhead lying about the Reconstruction bill it is only necessary for people to keep four facts in mind—

First. That the Reconstruction law enfranchises every loyal citizen of every State—blacks and whites—and withholds from all rebels and confers upon them all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the voters of the North. Only a few perjured leaders are excepted temporarily.

Second. That all legal voters irrespective of color or birth-place are enfranchised and empowered to protect and maintain their freedom and rights at the ballot-box.

Third. The Copperheads demand that not only shall all the rebels be enfranchised, but that all the loyal citizens of color shall be disfranchised and stripped of all power of self-protection, and turned over to the tender mercies of the unrepentant rebels to be treated and maltreated according to their will and pleasure!

Fourth. The Copperheads insist that the ten bogus State governments of the South created by Andrew Johnson and never ratified by popular vote, shall be unconditionally admitted into the Union, and that all obligations of rebels shall be admitted into Congress. The object and purpose, when they regain control of the government in all its departments, is to repudiate the national debt; pay the rebels for their slaves emancipated by the proclamation; pay them for the losses they incurred while trying to destroy the government, and pay those of us who were wounded while killing Union soldiers.

Arise, freemen, in your duty majesty! Consecrate with the blood of the brave and the tears of the widow the glorious combination of perfidy and greed, which, if successful, will place the heel of the traitor on the neck of peril, and let not the sun go down upon the day which does not see you at the ballot-box. Gather, in every hamlet in the land, from the mountain-top and the valley, the strength of your indignation. The warning shout of "Johnson and Copperhead" is the death-knell of liberty and humanity.

Another spasm like that and the writer will "shuffle off this mortal Coyle." But what is it all about? Oh, nothing; it is simply the Copperhead way of saying that unless Congress consents to disfranchise the loyal citizens of the South, the Copperheads of the North will rip their under-clothing into tatters.

☞ Johnson's keepers having choked him off from delivering political harangues on the stump, he now resorts to the trick of writing a reporter for some daily paper, and inflicting upon him that same old speech, with such variations as he can devise; the reporter straightway hands himself by employing the sentence of the "late lamented" with A. J. upon the head of the journal with which he is connected. The last reporter to whom Andy has unbosomed himself is the Washington correspondent of the New York World. The speech made to this gentleman is of the short hand persuasion in the old gubernatorial style, and contains the gist of the usual Commander-in-Chief upon that subject, with a few new touches. The last communication with the United States. The second hand lands, with timber, can be bought for $2.50 per acre. Improved farms, with good buildings, can be had from $5 to $10 per acre.

The above is from the latest duty of our correspondent at Washington, and will be read with interest. It is well to keep a sharp look-out upon the movements of the Catholic clergy of the diocese of Lincoln.

☞ They declare that disaffection is confined to the Irish in Ireland and Fenians elsewhere. Such is not the fact. Disaffection is widespread, and is confined to no class of the population. Ignorant Irishmen, who have been deluded into the belief that they will have to "carry at Jericho," &c. Whether the expedition will have a hurt to perform before the campaign is over, remains to be seen.

Personalizing through the streets of this city, the stranger will be struck with a new sight, which has gained a place apparently upon the credit of the government, on which it has issued Indentitional bonds to the amount of $40,000,000. Every one can get gold for our dry per cent bonds a year, we have to take up one of our new bonds in gold with money raised on our five per cent bonds.

The National Bank currency can be disposed of immediately by substituting Treasury notes in their stead. There is neither justice nor sagacity in allowing individuals or associations to borrow at one rate and compel the people to pay interest upon the credit of the government, on which they loan it. It would be quite as wise to issue these government bonds or turn them over to the government at once for inflation, and thus save the interest. Let the Secretary of the Treasury withdraw the bonds from circulation, as the necessities, itself was compelled to do in the case of the old Bank of the United States, and the Bank of Canada, which are the most successful banking institutions in the world, have done.

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ST. LOUIS.

Embargo Upon Trade.

A Town Shut Out from the Rest of the World.

The "Natural Centre" Delusion.

The Railroad Tangle.

Special Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 27.

FROZEN IN—STRENGTHENING.

While Chicago is spanning the Mississippi with bridges at all the crossings of trade and travel from Hannibal north, and opening the way for the iron horse to surmount the barrier that the Father of Waters has attempted in vain to interpose between the Garden City and the ever-to-be teeming plains of the West, it is but fair that we should be informed, and help, with her energy and enterprise, to spur beaten the sluggish citizens of the Mound City. Twenty-four hours of temperature verging towards zero, does as a rule, close the navigation of the Mississippi here—the floating ice lays a thorough embargo upon trade—eats away the channels a blue streak of oaths on both banks of the river, but not enough almost to melt the frozen and pats St. Louis into a general state of idleness, as your business men do now. We want a bridge! We want it badly! We want it now! To be sure, any where else in the world but St. Louis, the difficulties of transportation would be overcome by abutments and string, and all the year round the cars would run, we wait until the river is impassable, and then we sit down and discuss a bridge, and then we sit down and discuss a bridge, and then we sit down and discuss a bridge, and Louis and Illinois Bridge Company, and Bridge to and fro, and Bridge to and fro, and Bridge to and fro, St. Louis' ditto.

It all this were not bad enough in its influence upon St. Louis for a joke, how laughable would be the situation. Why, there is a thing on be imagined, of your city closing in business, your dry goods, for instance, for the want of an investment of two or three millions of dollars, in support in its ridiculous impenetrability? And yet we talk of "natural centre" which shall control the trade of the Mississippi Valley, and, forsooth, become, by the greatest concurrence of circumstances, the future Queen City of the West. Chicago has already arrived in Colorado Territory, and is pushing her railroads into the heart of the Rocky Mountains, and is exercising capital and business men, and is exercising capital and business men, and is exercising capital and business men

stand talked, Pemberton's luck having passed to his left, lodging in a tree close by; but he had succeeded in making good his word, for his antagonist was assisted to have passed a dangerous arch on the side of the head and a slight fracture of the chisel, the ball escaping the brain only by half a hair's breadth.

Pemberton's wound was thoroughly dressed, and the entire party returned to Paterson at 10 o'clock, they had left it, and thence took return cars for the city, where they duly arrived and separated, mutually "satisfied," as they declared. It is to be hoped that Mr. Pemberton's wound has seen the worst of his friends think so. Hence it may be inferred that the whole story of this latest affair of honor is now told.

AN IMPORTANT OIL SUIT.

The Chicago and Allegheny Oil Company vs. The United States Petroleum Company.

From the Titusville (Penn.) Herald, Dec. 17.

In the Supreme Court, in session at Philadelphia, before Chief Justice Thompson and Judges Read, Agnew and Sharswood.

Chicago and Allegheny Oil Company et al. vs. The United States Petroleum Company. An appeal from the Master's decision, October 16, 1865, Thomas Holmden, the owner of a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, situate at Pithole Creek, Venango County, executed an agreement like printed below, granting to Faulkner the privilege of boring for oil on Holmden's farm; the conditions of which were, that Faulkner should give Holmden one quarter of all the oil that should be struck, and should deliver the same at Holmden's warehouse, wherever or said tract located, at several stated times.

It was also expressly provided that a failure to comply with any of the covenants, conditions or agreement, on the part of Faulkner, should work a forfeiture of the rights granted, and Holmden or his assigns might thereupon enter and take possession of said land as if said agreement had not been made, unless such failure occurred from unavoidable necessity. Faulkner assigned this agreement to the Chicago and Allegheny Petroleum Company, the defendants, who under it have operated upon the premises highly successful, the farm at one time producing four thousand barrels of oil per day.

Holmden sold his farm to Jordan & Scofield, who sold to Wright & Chittenden, who sold to the plaintiffs in this case. Long before plaintiffs became the owner, they discovered that the defendants did not comply with the conditions and requirements of the agreement, and accordingly gave them notice that the agreement should be complied with. This notice not being complied with, all attempts to compel a compliance with the terms of the agreement failing, plaintiffs commenced proceedings to recover possession of the premises. An ejectment was brought in the Common Pleas of Venango County, and this bill was filed in aid of the action at law, praying that a receiver be appointed to dispose of the oil produced by the wells and belonging to defendants, and that an injunction should issue restraining the said defendants from receiving or selling any oil produced by the farm or interfering with it in any way.

The defendants claimed that the object of the plaintiff's bill was to aid in the enforcement of a forfeiture of the lease, and denied the same.

A court of equity will not interfere to enforce a forfeiture or aid its enforcement in any way.

If there was ground on which to claim a forfeiture it was waived by the receipt of rent, which had accrued after the alleged cause of the action of ejectment.

A party will not be allowed to try in equity that which he has begun to try at law, where his remedy is full and complete.

In this present case the court will not appoint a receiver or grant an injunction.

The bill prays for the appointment of a receiver to which the receiver and injunction will be granted. Because the defendants are in possession under lawful title derived from complainants, it does not cause the receiver is prayed for only as to a part of the premises, and that the writ of injunction was not issued to the proper county, are grounds for which the receiver and injunction will not be dissolved. From the allegations in their bill, it may be, as to which they have a plain, adequate and full remedy at law, and defendant would possibly have a right to go before a jury.

The Master refused the prayer contained in the bill; and now the case comes up on appeal from his decision.

The case involves about $1,000,000, and there are 113 suits depending.

A Man Shoots His Wife in the Presence of His Dying Mother.

From the Philadelphia Post, Jan. 17.

The community was startled yesterday afternoon by the news of a shooting and suspected homicide which had occurred in this city. One of the murderer is Rodman Graham, and the victim was the wife of the latter gentleman. Graham, a tall past twelve o'clock, yesterday, was engaged in waiting on her mother, who, for some time past, has been confined to the house No. 507 Pitswater street, Kensington, by reason of her old age, being seventeen years, united Edward Gogan, once to the late Benjamin Swift, Esq., and after his decease, by the servant, proceeded to the chamber to see her mother, the other his wife, whom on his dying mother, the other his wife, who was dozing the last and only time. Mrs. Graham, on entering the bedchamber, word, or warning of any kind, or without any provocation whatever, drew a pistol from her pocket, walked up to her wife, drew her head down, and placing the muzzle of the weapon to the back part of her head and making sure into her brain.

The unfortunate woman fell to the floor insensible. Graham waited a few moments, and then, with a fearful oath, rushed out into the street, and into a neighboring house, where a few water streets, coolly poured out a tumbler of whiskey, and drank it down at one draught. Then, walking to Alderman McCluskey's office, he deliberately gave himself into the custody of the officer in charge, and delivering at the same time, to the officer, the weapon by her side—a short, but effective looking pistol. From the Alderman's office he was taken to the Central District Station House. He there stated, as a motive for the deed, that his wife had two years before, attempted to poison him, and that he was determined to avenge himself.

Mrs. Graham was taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where Dr. Hutchinson examined the wound of the brain and pronounced it fatal. She was not dead at a late hour last night, but there was no hope of her recovery. It appeared further, at the station, that the pistol at which Graham had, last night, pointed the pistol at the lad Cogan, and threatened to shoot him dead if he did not leave the house. Both came from Boston, and have lived at No. 507 Pitswater street for the past year. The quarrel between the two last night was first telegraphed for his wife to leave the house.

The husband married seven years, and has two children, aged respectively four and five years. Mrs. Graham was a young and comely woman, universally loved by all who knew her, and respected for her virtues. The fact has created a deep sensation in the community in and of the parties in the unfortunate affair, and the crime with much more than an ordinary interest. The fact of the murderer being the husband of the victim, and upon the scene a helpless mother for her, so-called, "unwritten history" of the affair, and the materials are furnished for a tragic story as this city has seldom seen.

Political Complexion of the United States Supreme Court.

From the Philadelphia Press.

The following information will be welcome to the Supreme Court, and to all lawyers, and will correct some prevalent misapprehensions. The names of the judges, and he order in which they were appointed, is given as it is directed to be by the Reconstruction laws. That irrelevant matter is omitted from the list. There are at present eight Democrats and one Republican:

Salmon P. Chase, Ohio, Chief Justice—appointed by Lincoln; New York, Republican.
Nathan Clifford, Maine; Samuel Nelson, New York; Robert C. Grier, Pennsylvania; David Davis, Illinois; Noah W. Miller, Iowa; Stephen J. Field, California; appointed by Lincoln; Democrats.
Samuel F. Miller, Iowa; Republican; appointed by Lincoln; has a salary of $8,500.

The ages of these Judges, so far as we can ascertain them, are as follows: Chase, sixty-seven; Nelson, seventy-three; Grier, seventy-two; Clifford, sixty-five; Davis, fifty-one; Miller, fifty-one; Field, fifty-one; Swayne, fifty-two; Wayne, eighty-one; Catron, seventy-five; Taney, eighty-eight; Swayne, Miller, Davis and Field (fifty five). Of these nine, Taney, Wayne, Catron, and Nelson by Polk; Clifford by Pierce; Grier and Nelson by Polk; Clifford by Pierce; Swayne, Miller, Davis and Field by Lincoln; Chase by Lincoln, Taney, Chase and Clifford, gave decisions during the war which, gave rise to a true saying of Lincoln, Mr. Chase was the best Democrat in the Republican party, and Mr. Taney the best Republican in the Democratic party. Chase was appointed as a reward for Republican services; Mr. Taney has lately been appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Chief Justice Taney. Chase was appointed

THE CHARITY BALL.

A Brilliant Scene in the Opera House.

The Beauty and Fashion of Chicago.

Preparations for the Event.

Grand Opening—The Dancing —Scenes and Incidents.

Decorations of the Hall—A Magnificent Display.

Who Were Present—Representative Costumes.

The Supper—Bill of Fare.

A Rich Musical Feast—The Boston Band.

The scene in the Opera House last night was unquestionably the most brilliant and beautiful, in the way of a ball, that was ever presented to the eyes or taste of good society in Chicago. The affair of two years ago, at the opening of the new Chamber of Commerce, was by no means an every-day occurrence, but it was for substance and essence by the entertainment of last night. The decoration of the hall and galleries was rather overdone, giving a sense of tropical luxuriance and barbaric splendor, which was unnecessary, and suggestive of the idea of a garden of flowers rather than a ball-room. But perhaps there was never before in this or any other city in the United States one half so many beautiful women gathered together, whether any city in the United States can make a more powerful and charming exhibition than the ladies of Chicago placed upon the occasion last night, is a question which will be delightful debate. Weather Charity gale much or little out of the hall, and we do not doubt the promptness of the affair, that it will not put much, if any, money into the charitable treasury, taste in dress has reached a point of real artistic excellence. The art of arraying oneself charmingly is one of the marks and adjuncts of a high civilization. Those who have seen the ball of the season of Chicago last evening will envy that the dames of this later city have not yet reached the goods appear to the best advantage.

The whole arrangement of the hall was arranged that the ladies should have the best of it. Dancing was brought first to the balcony, from which a full view of the floor could be had, and the floor itself, which extended from the rear of the parquet, over which extended from the rear of the parquet, over which extended from the rear of the parquet, over